

RI Department of Environmental Management

Marine Fisheries

PRE-HEARING WORKSHOP

February 6, 2017



Rules of Engagement

- RIDFW staff will provide presentation on each of the proposed regulation amendments;
- Discussion will ensue upon completion of each presentation. Discussion should focus on:
 - Understanding of the rationale behind each of the proposed amendments;
 - Recommendations of alternatives.
- IMPORTANT! The workshop discussion is *not* an official public record. *Comments and/or proposals can be submitted during the public hearing on February 13th or provided in writing/email during the public comment period (ending Feb. 24).*



Workshop Items

1. Recreational Summer Flounder
2. Recreational Scup
3. Recreational Black Sea Bass



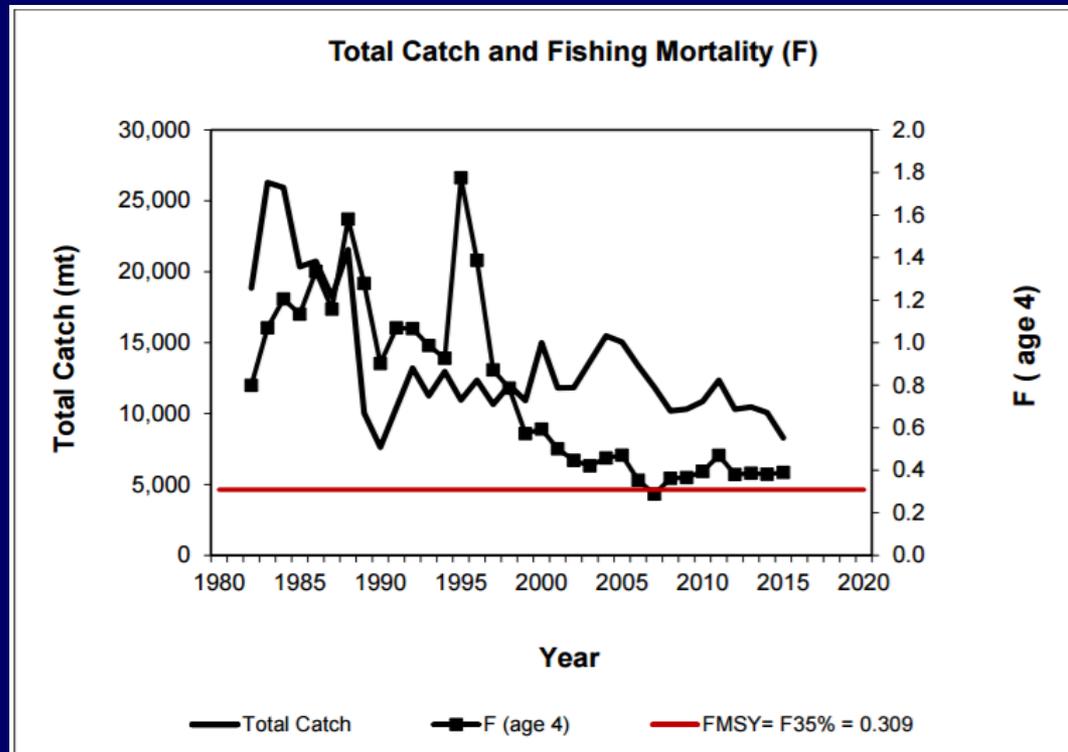
Summer Flounder

- Summary of Stock Status
- 2016 Rhode Island Commercial Fishery Performance
- Recommendations for 2017



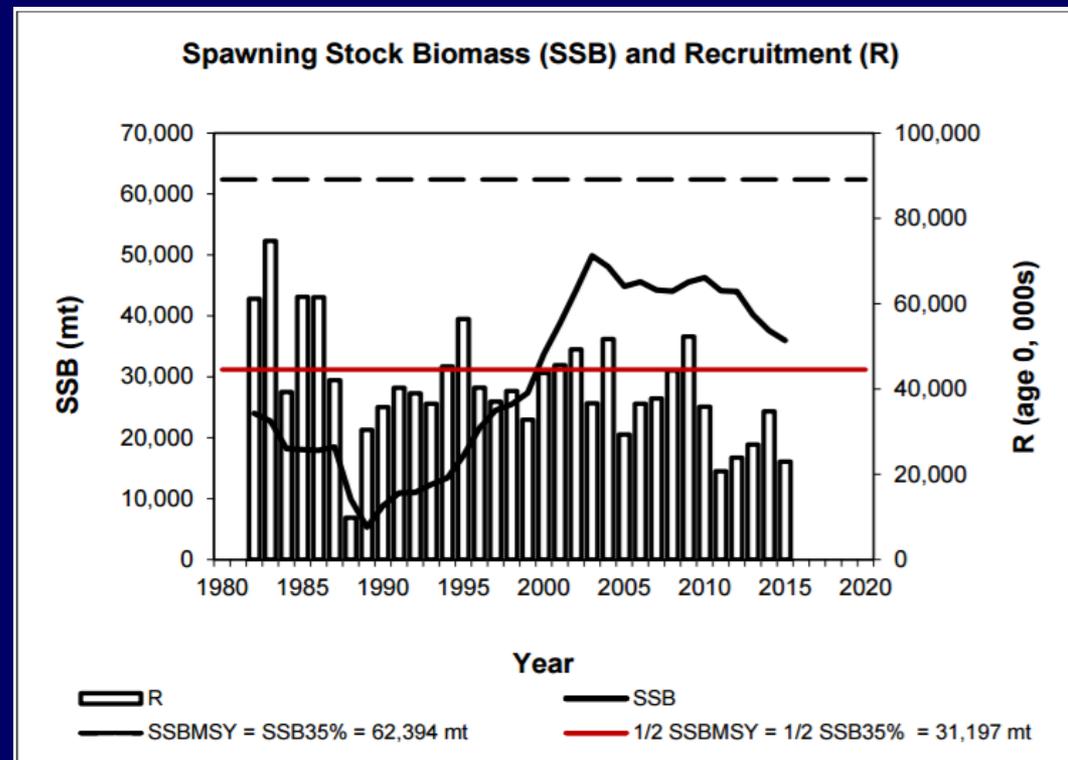
Summer Flounder Stock Status

- Update in 2015: Based on SAW/SARC 57 assessment, the summer flounder stock is not overfished, but overfishing is occurring relative to biological reference points.
- Fishing mortality was estimated to be 0.359 in 2015, above the threshold F reference point = 0.309 (also above F target = 0.255).

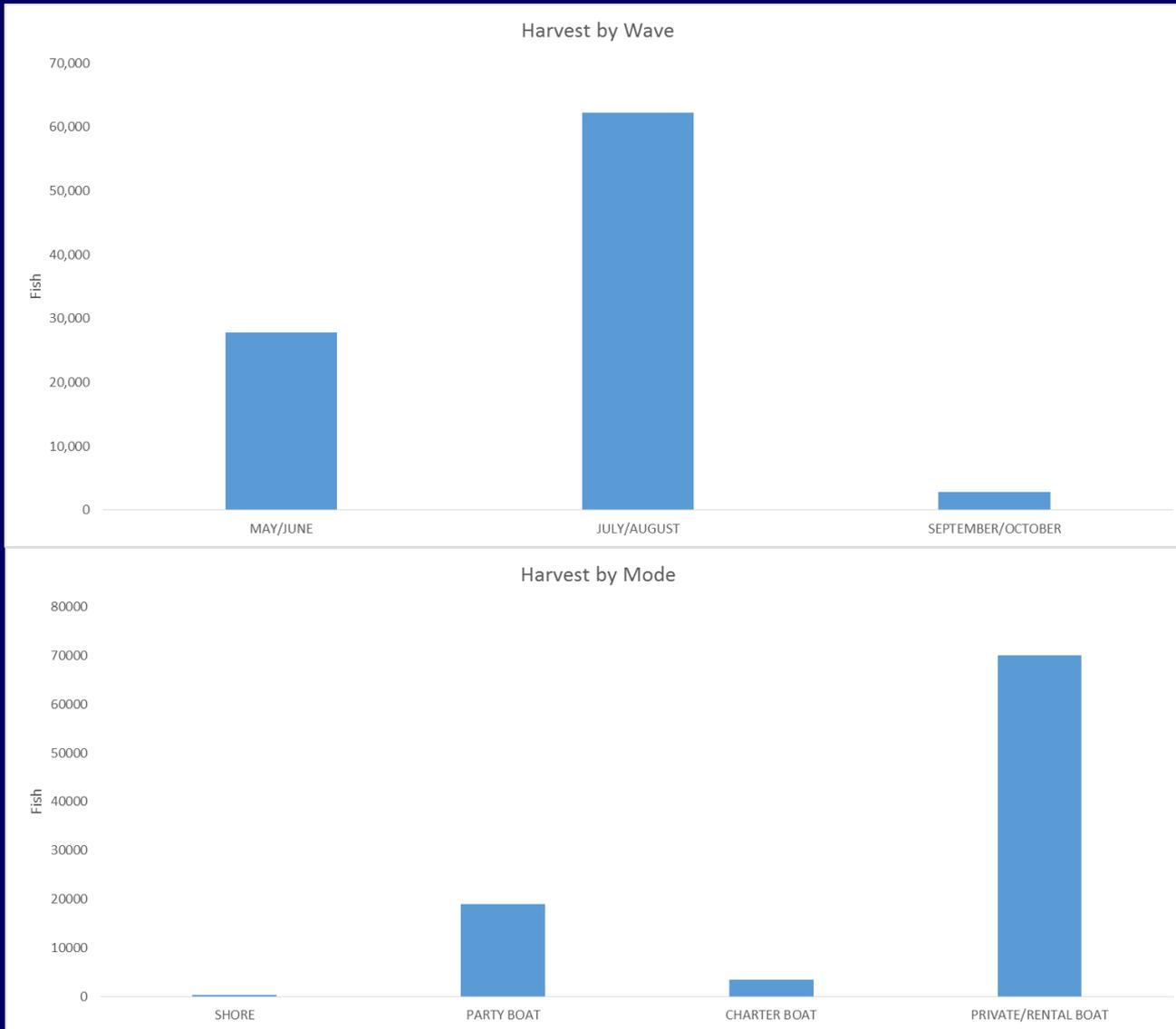


Summer Flounder Stock Status cont'd:

- SSB estimated to be 79.9 m lbs in 2015, below the SSB reference point = 137.6 m lbs but above the SSB threshold = 66.2 m lbs.
- The 2015 year class is currently estimated to be about 41 million fish, at the average of 42 million fish.
- A retrospective pattern in recruitment is evident, the 2008 and 2009 large year classes have dropped significantly in recent updates.



2016 RI Recreational Summer Flounder Fishery Performance



• **Note:**
Data only through wave 5



ASMFC Management of Summer Flounder

- RI 2016 recreational harvest projected to be less than 2015 harvest
- 2016 coastwide summer flounder harvest came in over target, coupled with a need to reduce an additional 30%, therefore there is a need for regions to reduce harvest to meet the 2017 RHL
- Addendum XXVIII went before ASMFC on February 2, 2017
- The ASMFC selected Option 5
 - RI delegation did not support this option
 - Requires RI to meet a 34% reduction, and is prescriptive
- Additional uncertainty remains
 - Option 5 does not meet the needed reduction
 - If GARFO does not accept option 5 as CE, default measures enacted



Recreational Summer Flounder

Proposed Management Options:

Option	Minimum size	Season	Possession Limit
<u>Current management:</u> *	18"	May 1 – Dec. 31	8 fish
<u>Option:</u>	<u>19"</u>	<u>May 1 – Dec. 31</u>	<u>4 fish</u>
<u>Default:</u>	<u>19"</u>	<u>June 1 – September 15</u>	<u>3 fish</u>

* Status quo is not an option for 2017



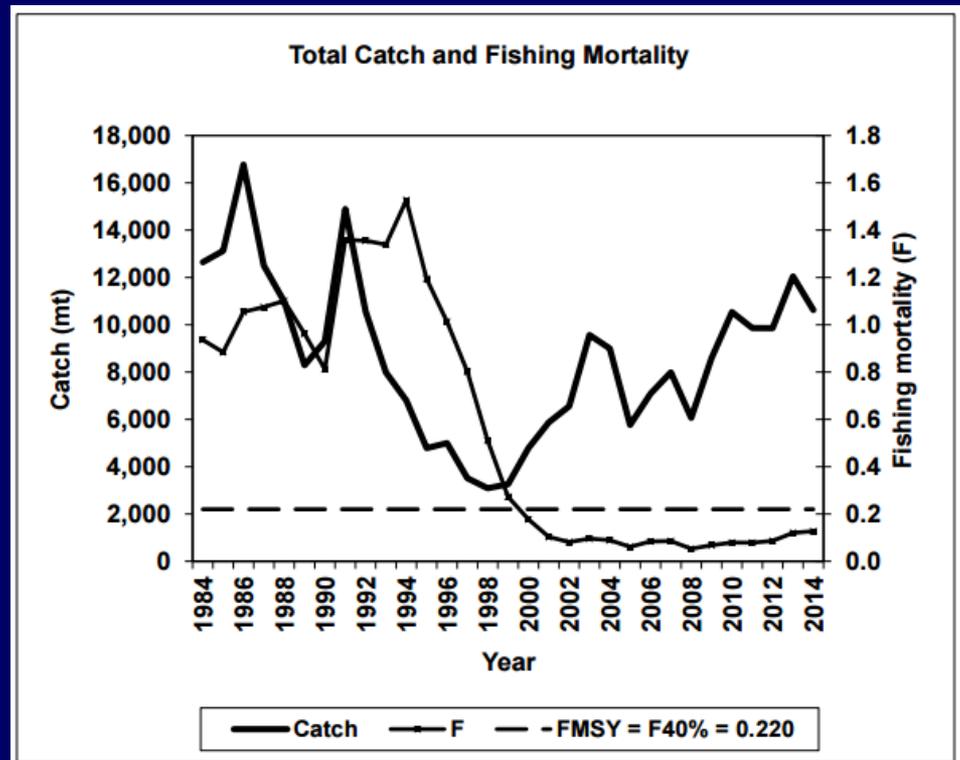
Recreational Scup

- Summary of Stock Status
- 2016 Rhode Island Recreational Fishery Performance
- ASMFC Management of Scup
- Recommendations for the 2017 Recreational Scup Fishery



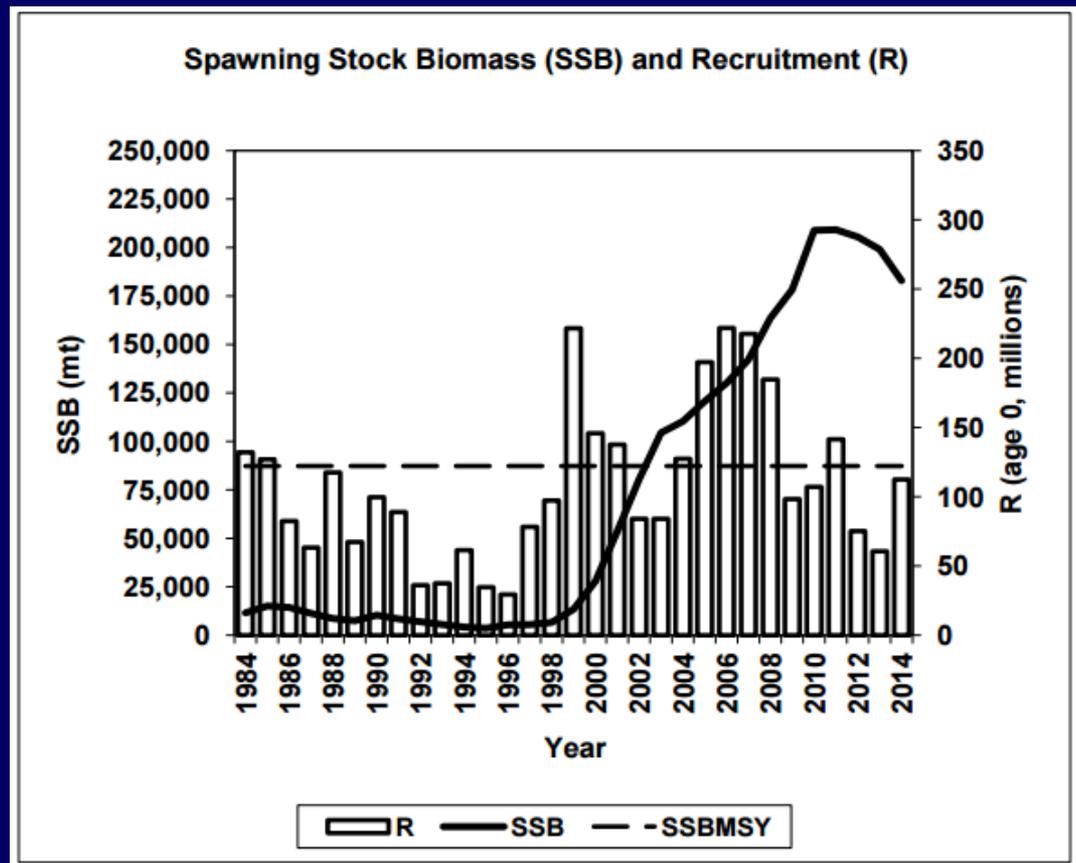
Scup Stock Status

- Benchmark completed in 2015
- The scup stock is not overfished, overfishing is not occurring relative to biological reference points
- Fishing mortality was estimated to be 0.127 in 2014, below the threshold F reference point = 0.22
- No update assessment 2016, just a data update

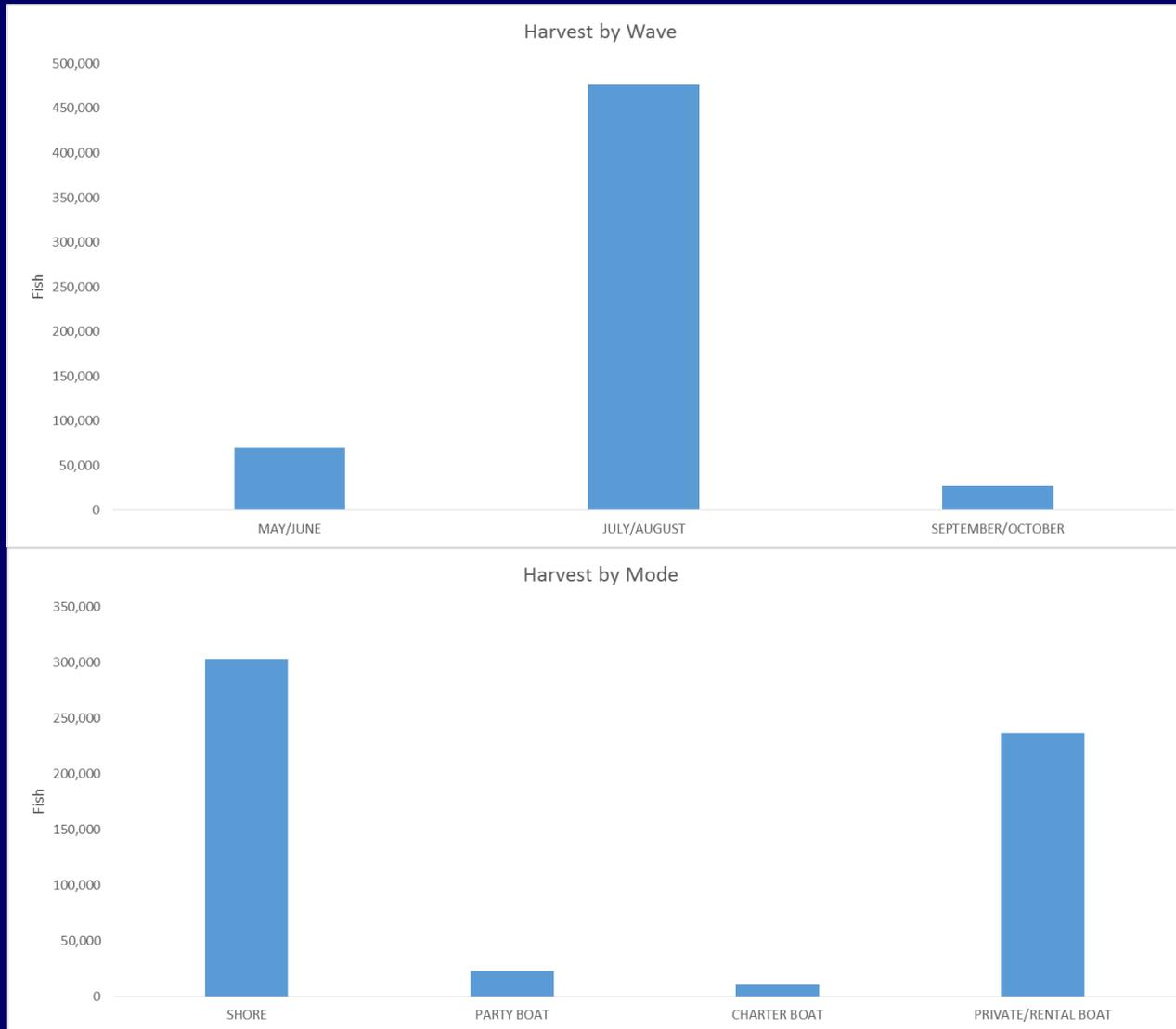


Scup Stock Status cont'd:

- SSB estimated to be 403 m lbs in 2014, above the SSB reference point = 192.47 m lbs and above the SSB threshold = 96.23 m lbs
- The 2014 year class is currently estimated to be about 112 million fish, around average



2016 RI Recreational Scup Fishery Performance



• **Note:**
Data only through wave 5



Recreational Scup

Proposed Management Options:

Option	Mode	Min. Size	Season/Possession Limit
<u>Option 1:</u> Current management	General Fishery	10"	<u>May 1 – Dec. 31: 30 fish</u>
	P/C	10"	<u>May 1 – Aug. 31: 30 fish</u> <u>Sept. 1 – Oct. 31: 45 fish</u> <u>Nov. 1 – Dec. 31: 30 fish</u>
	Special Shore	9"	<u>May 1 – Dec. 31: 30 fish</u>



Recreational Black Sea Bass

- Summary of Stock Status
- 2016 Rhode Island Recreational Fishery Performance
- ASMFC Management of Black Sea Bass
- Recommendations for the 2017 Recreational Black Sea Bass Fishery



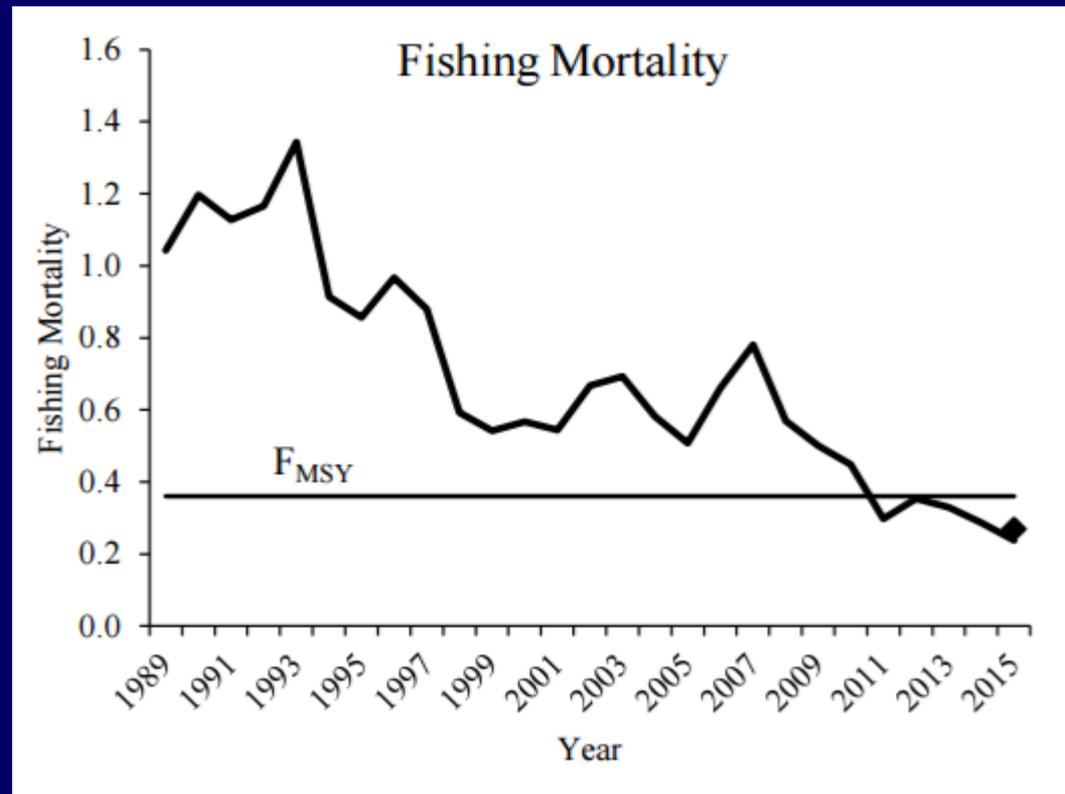
Black Sea Bass Stock Status

- Stock status (drumroll please...) not overfished, overfishing not occurring (symbol crash and confetti falls from sky)
- 2016 benchmark assessment was successful
- Quota increases set for 2017 per MA SSC meeting in Jan '17, no additional management uncertainty added by MC
- Stock is now assessed as 1 stock with meta-structure, northern portion (north of Hudson Canyon) and southern area (south of Hudson Canyon, north of Cape Hatteras)
 - Still managed as a single stock



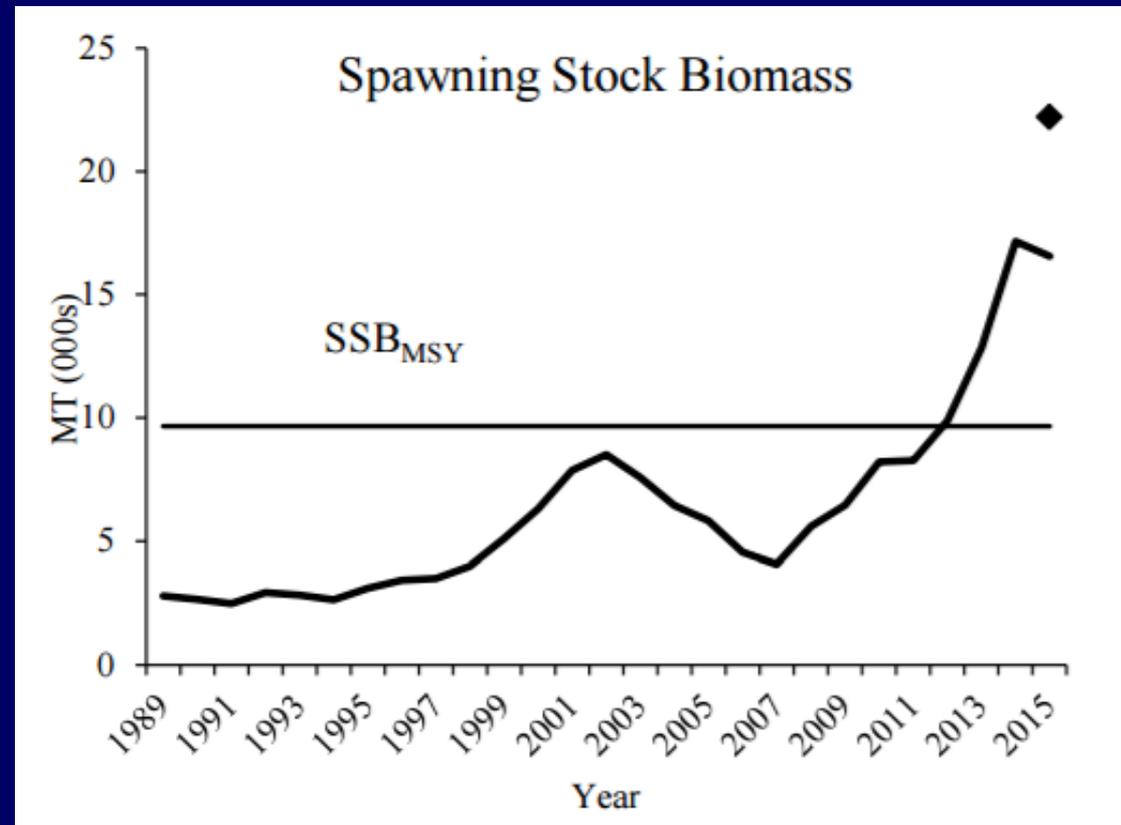
Black Sea Bass Stock Status

- Benchmark completed in 2016
- The black sea bass stock is not overfished, overfishing is not occurring relative to biological reference points
- Fishing mortality was estimated to be 0.27 in 2015, below the threshold F reference point = 0.36
- 2015 estimates are retrospectively adjusted

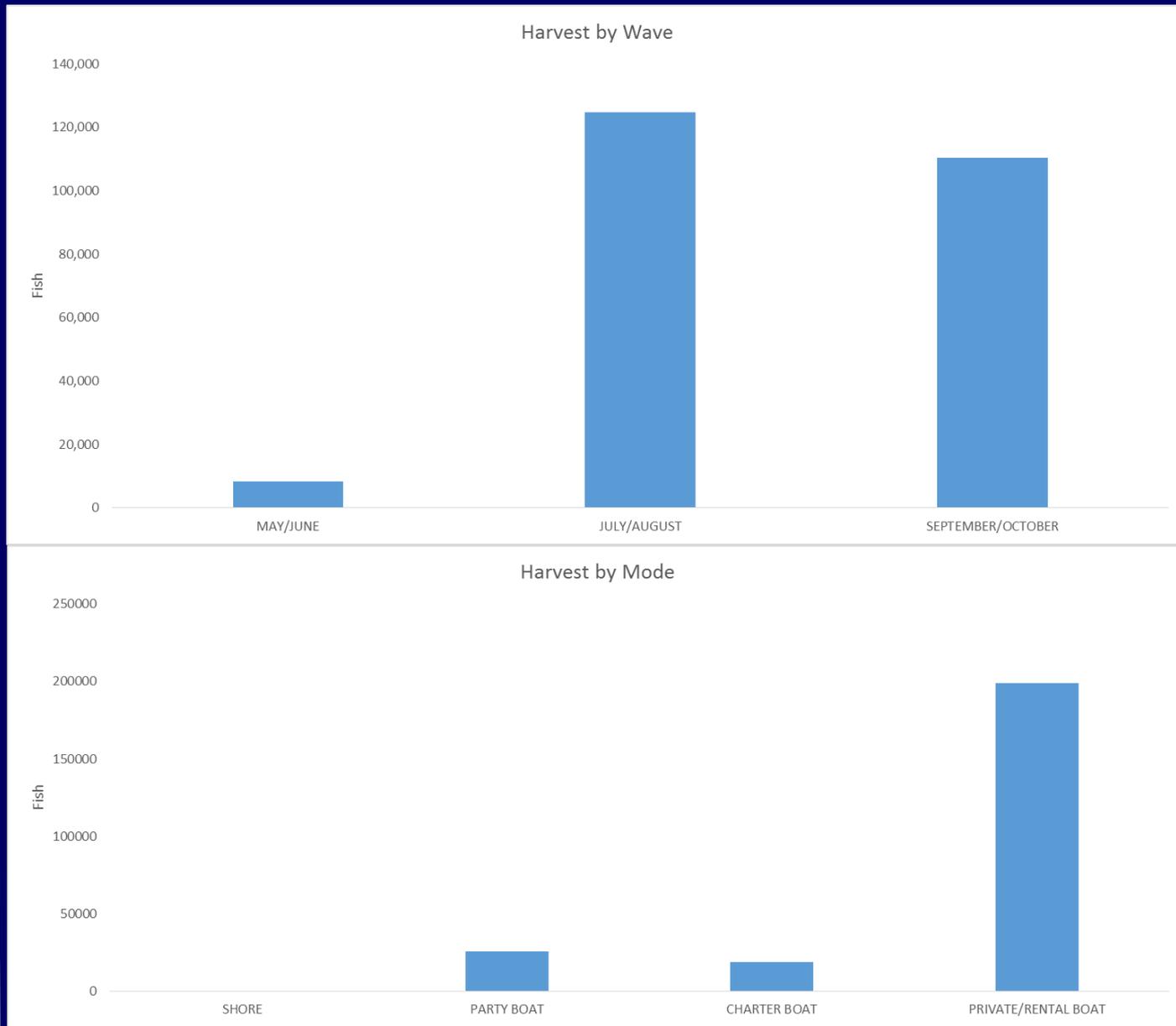


Black Sea Bass Stock Status cont'd:

- SSB estimated to be 48.9 m lbs in 2015, above the SSB reference point = 21.3 m lbs and above the SSB threshold = 10.7 m lbs
- The 2014 year class is currently estimated to be about 24.9 million fish, around average (avg = 24.3)
- Potential good recr event in 2015



2016 RI Recreational Black Sea Bass Fishery Performance



* **Note:**
Data only through wave 5



ASMFC Management of Black Sea Bass

- 2016 Projected Recreational Harvest ~ 4.67 million pounds
- 2017 Recreational Harvest “Target” ~ 4.29 million pounds
- Needed Reduction = 8%
- Note: RI does not have a specific target as black sea bass managed through “ad hoc” regions
 - All states in Northern Region (NJ – MA) are required to reduce 2015 harvest by 8%
- MC has recommended status quo for 2017 based on MRIP uncertainty, pending GARFO approval



Recreational Black Sea Bass

Proposed Management Options:

Option	Min. Size	Season	Possession Limit
Current management	14"	6/24 – 8/31	3 fish
		9/1 – 12/31	7 fish
<u>Alternative option1:</u>	<u>14"</u>	<u>6/24 – 8/31</u>	<u>3 fish</u>
		<u>9/1 – 10/21</u>	<u>7 fish</u>
<u>Alternative option2:</u>	<u>14"</u>	<u>7/6 – 8/31</u>	<u>3 fish</u>
		<u>9/1 – 12/31</u>	<u>7 fish</u>



End of Slides!

